COL. 5

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BIG HEROIN RINGS SMASHED BY U.S.; LEADERS INDICTED

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Narcotics Crackdown Here Focuses on 2 Frenchmen Brought From Brazil

NYTimes

By MORRIS KAPLAN

The reputed leaders of two international heroin-smuggling rings were indicted yesterday on charges of conspiring to smuggle more than 1,100 pounds of heroin, valued at $250-million, into the United States between January, 1968, and April, 1971.

Flown from Brazil at the request of the Justice Department, the two were held in record bail of $2.5-million as Federal prosecutors said the suspects were responsible for channelling massive quantities of the drug into the country.

Two separate indictments unsealed before Chief Judge Jacob Mishler in Federal District Court in Brooklyn named 20 suspects—six Frenchmen, four Americans, three Swiss, two Argentines, two Italians and three "John Does."

Ringleaders Named

The Federal authorities identified the ringleaders as Christian David, a 41-year-old French citizen living in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Michel Nicoli, 42, another Frenchman taken into custody by the Brazilian police at Washington's request.

Although each had separate sources of supply, they frequently joined in heroin operations based in Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil, according to Robert A. Morse, United States Attorney for the Eastern District.

The heroin originated in the poppy fields of Turkey, was processed in Marseilles and was shipped to South America. Customs agents and agents of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, together with specialists of the Brooklyn Strike Force Against Organized Crime, seized 26 kilograms of heroin, but at least 474 kilograms found their way into the retail market. Half of it was sold in New York City, narcotics agents said.

Arrested 3 Weeks Ago

Judge Mishler fixed the record-high bail on both David and Nicoli on the basis of an affidavit by Thomas P. Puccio, an assistant United States Attorney who coordinated the prosecution.

He reported that both had been arrested three weeks ago at the request of the United States Government by the police in Bahia, Brazil. They arrived at 6:20 A.M. yesterday at Kennedy International Airport in the custody of five Brazilian policemen.

David, he said, had been sought for the last six years

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for the murder of a French police commissioner who was shot to death Feb. 2, 1966. David was sentenced to death in absentia. His criminal record includes 21 convictions.

He was taken to a hospital following Mr. Puccio's disclosure that the haggard suspect had swallowed a piece of metal in his cell in Brazil Thursday. Authorities accounted for the bandages on both his wrists, saying he had previously broken a light bulb and cut the wrists. He also reportedly swallowed pieces of broken glass.

"I have been tortured for 30 days, and I am not about to say anything without a lawyer," he said through a French interpreter. "I have no money, they took everything."

David was said to have been personally responsible for the importation of 103 kilograms of heroin here.

Jumped $50,000 Bail

Testimony before a grand jury indicated that Nicoli was wanted in France for armed robbery for which he had been sentenced to 20 years in prison. On March 21, 1968, he was arrested on a narcotics indictment in Brooklyn under the name of Abraham E. Goldman, also known as Miguel Dos Santos. He jumped the $50,000 bail he had posted shortly afterward.

Another defendant, who is still a fugitive, Louis Bonsignour, 48, a French citizen, forfeited $50,000 bail in connection with an indictment filed against him in the Southern District during 1968.

Narcotics and customs agents have been charting the activities of the ring here, in Washington and Miami, as well as in Europe and South America for about five years. The investigation was stepped up within the last year after Federal agents obtained the cooperation of a number of alleged co-conspirators who were not named as defendants.

Characteristically, the rings were comprised of Europeans and South Ameriuans operating from France, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Venezuela and the United States—mostly New York and Miami.

Variously Shipped

The heroin was shipped in hidden compartments in commercial aircraft, in expensive European automobiles, in fish cans, in valises and taped to the bodies of couriers.

Banks in Switzerland and Brussels were allegedly used to conceal assets and facilitate the transfer of funds.

Mr. Morse said the indictments were rooted in the 1967 arrest of a man named Ange Lucarroti, who was seized with five kilograms of heroin at Kennedy International Airport. In August, 1970, he said, more information about the expanding heroin business was gathered, leading to the arrest of Argentinian-born Luis Stepenberg, Jack Grosby and Eduardo Poeta.

Stepenberg who was 44, died in his cell at the Federal House of Detention here in March last year of pneumonia after having been convicted on 15 counts of narcotics violations. Poeta, a co-conspirator, was sentenced to 40 years in prison and fined $300,000. Grosby is awaiting trial.

All three were named in one of yesterday's indictments as co-conspirators but not as defendants, along with James Cohen, Felix Martinez, Willie Wouters, Daniel Mitnik, Christian Hysoion and Florencio Gonzalez.

Named in the indictment with David were Mario Deniz, 39, a Frenchman living in Brussels;

Joannes Munoz, 40, of Boulogne, France; William Perrin, 41, in French custody; James Christian, 41, an American citizen in New York State custody, and Marcello Isaac Delgado, 46, an American citizen in custody in New Jersey.

Carlos Rojas Colombo, 47, an Argentinian, and Paul Navarro, 39, an American citizen, are both serving prison terms in Atlanta Federal Penitentiary.

Listed as fugitives were Carlos Aparicio, 30, an Argentinian and André Hirsch, 64; Louis Brique, 46, and Daniel Vuille-Dit Bille, 42, all of Switzerland. Also, Domingo Padron, 61, of New York and Louis Bonsignour, 48.

Indicted with Nicoli were Carlo Zippo, 46, an Italian citizen who lived here at the Woodstock Hotel and is a fugitive, and Guglielmo Casalini, 48, an Italian citizen living in brazil.

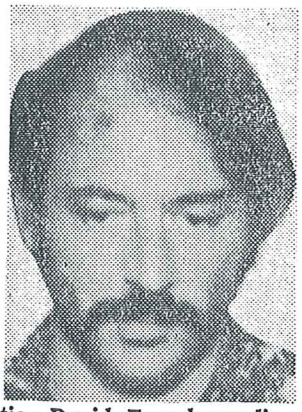
Conviction on each count carries a mandatory five-year term and up to 20 years in prison and a $20,000 fine.

Frank Monastero, associate regional director of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, estimated that the two rings supplied about 10 per cent of the world's heroin market. He reported that heroin prices had risen 25 per cent recently because of a shortage on the Eastern Seaboard. This has been accompanied, he said, by a sharp decrease of pure heroin in drug pushers' packets.

The "nickle bags" now contain only about 2 per cent heroin, instead of the customary 6 to 10 per cent, he reported. He estimated the number of heroin users in the country at between 350,000 and 559,000, half of whom live in the metropolitan area, he said.

The Brazilian Government also expelled a third Frenchman ,accused in Federal District Court in Manhattan of having run a heroin-smuggling ring. He arrived on the plane with David and Nicoli.

He was identified as Claude Pastou, accused of importing narcatics from Europe through Canada, and he was indicted on May 18, 1971. Co-defendants in the indictment were Jean François Marazzini and Paul R. Pasqualini, identified as managers of taverns in Madrid, Spain.



Michel Nicoli, left, and Christian David, Frenchmen living in Brazil, were flown here to face charges.

F.B.I. Asked for 3

Special to The New York Times

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov. 17—Three Frenchmen expelled from Brazil on charges of drug traffic connections were sent to the United States rather than France at the request of the American Federal Bureau of Investigation, a spokesman for the Brazilian federal police said tonight.

The spokesman in Brasilia said that the United States had made no formal extradition request for Christian David, Michel Nicole and Claude Pastou, but expressed interest in receiving them. Clearance for their entry to the United States was granted to the Brazilian police.

The decision to send the three to theUnitedStates after their expulsion was ordered was made by Minister of Justice Alfredo Buzaid acting on information supplied by the Brazilian federal police, it was explained.

The expulsion order was signed by President Emílio Garrastazu Médici. Brazilian police escorted the three on a Pan American Airways flight that left Rio de Janeiro late last night.

An official of the French consulate said that it had not been informed. He believed it was usual for expelled foreigners to be sent to their country of origin.

Three more Frenchmen who were ordered expelled will be sent to France, where they are wanted, within the next 20 days, it was expected. They are Christian Bernard Javet, Robert Bourdoulous and François Antoine Canazzi.

Tomaso Buschetta, born in Sicily, will be sent to Italy, where he is wanted on 10 murder counts.

Minister Buzaid explained that the Brazilian Government decided to expel the seven foreigners because it involved a simple legal procedure. He explained that extradition proceedings would take more time